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Message Text

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46
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 AID-05 SY-05 ARAE-00 DHA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /070 W
---------- 052965
P R 191750Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 900
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, CU, NU
SUBJECT: TESTIMONY OF CAPTURED FSLN LEADER, TOMAS BORGE MARTINEZ

SUMMARY: TESTIMONY OF FSLN LEADER TOMAS BORGE, CAPTURED BY GN ON FEBRUARY 4, HAS BEEN DRAMATICALLY EXTENSIVE. BORGE'S 24 HOURS OF TESTIMONY WHICH CONCLUDED ON AUGUST 16, GENERATED ABOUT 800 COLUMN INCHES OF COVERAGE IN LA PRENSA (BEING SENT AS AIRGRAM) AND ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS IN NOVEDADES. LOCAL REACTION, WHICH SHOULD BE SIGNIFICANT, WILL BE REPORTED LATER. END SUMMARY

1. BORGE'S TESTIMONY COMES CLOSE TO CONSITUTING AN AUTO-BIOGRAPHY, HISTORY OF THE FSLN, AND DIRECTORY OF FSLN MEMBERS AND SYMPATHIZERS. SOME OF THE MORE INTERESTING REVELATIONS ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. AUTO-BIOGRAPHY: BORGE FIRST TRAVELED TO CUBAN FOR THREE MONTHS OF GUERRILLA TRAINING IN 1960. HE SUBSEQUENTLY WAS INVOLVED IN NEARLY ALL FACETS OF FORMATION OF THE FSLN AND ITS OPERATIONS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED EXTRA-MARITAL RELATIONSHIP
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WHICH RESULTED IN A DAUGHTER. HE ACKNOWLEDGED KILLING OF

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GN OFFICER IN INCIDENT WHICH LED TO HIS ARREST. HE OPTED TO DEFEND HIMSELF AND REQUESTED TREATMENT AS MILITARY PRISONER. HE STATED HE WOULD NOT ATTEMPT ESCAPE NOR WOULD HE ATTEMPT SUICIDE.

3. HISTORY OF FSLN: BORGE'S TESTIMONY REVEALS EXTREMELY SLOW START-UP OF FRENTE AFTER ITS FORMATION IN 1961. THERE WAS MUCH IDEOLOGICAL DEBATE ON OBJECTIVE CONDITIONS, THE CUBAN EXPERIENCE, THE WRITING OF REGIS DEBRAY, ETC. IN 1964, ALREADY DISCOURAGED BY LACK OF SUCCESS IN GUERRILA OPERATIONS, THE FSLN DECIDED TO WORK FOR POLITICAL CHANGE WITH THE REPUBLICAN MOBILIZATION PARTY (MR) AND THE NICARAGUAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PSN). HOWEVER, THE FSLN, WITHOUT MASS POLITICAL ORGANIZATION EXPERIENCE, FELT OUTMANEUVERED BY THE MORE EXPERIENCED PSN AND DROPPED OUT OF THE COALITION. THE 1972 EARTHQUAKE OFFERED THE PROSPECT OF A WEAKENED GOVERNMENT AND THE FRENTE BEGAN COUP PLOTTING WHICH APPARENTLY NEVER EVEN REACHED THE PLANNING STAGE. THE FRENTE'S PRIMARY SUCCESS WAS THE LOS ROBLES ATTACK. ACCORDING TO BORGE, IF AMBASSADOR SHELTON HAD BEEN CAUGHT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN RELEASED. MOST OF THE KIDNAPPERS AND RELEASED FRENTE MEMBERS HAVE RETURNED FROM CUBA TO NICARAGUA. THE FRENTE WOULD NOT ACCEPT CUBAN LEADERSHIP WHICH WAS OFFERED BY GUEVARA AND BY FIDEL CASTRO. RECENT DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS HAVE LED TO EXECUTIONS OF SOME FRENTE MEMBERS, AND ACCORDING TO BORGE, THER ARE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE FRENTE AS WELL AS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.

4. DIRECTOR: BORGE'S TESTIMONY IS REPLETE WITH NAMES OF FSLN LEADERS, MEMBERS AND COLLABORATORS. EQUALLY INTERESTING IS THE LIST OF NAMES HE STATED HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF, AND THOSE IDENIFIED AS NON-MEMBERS OR ONLY SYMPATHIZERS. FOR EXAMPLE, FATHER ERNESTO CARDENAL WAS DESCRIBED AS A SPIRITUAL SUPPORTER, NOT A COLLABORATOR. LA PRENSA EDIOR, PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO, WAS AN ACQUAINTANCE OF BORGE, BUT BEFORE THE LATTER BECAME A GUERRILLA. RENEGADE LIBERAL PARTY DEPUTY RAMIRO SACASA WAS IDENTIFIED BY BORGE NOT AS A COLLABORATOR BUT AS A SYMPATHETIC PERSON. BORGE ALSO REFERRED TO RUMORS THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY WAS INTERESTED IN MAKING CONTACT WITH THE FRENTE. NOTHING HAPPENED, BUT BORGE STATED THE FSLN WOULD
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HAVE REJECTED ANY SUCH CONTACT.

5. EMB IS UNABLE AT THIS TIME TO EVALUATE THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO SUCH A REMARKABLE TESTIMONY OR TO ITS VERACITY OR COMPLETENESS. HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT BORGE WAS DETAINED FOR SIX MONTHS,DURING THE FIRST HALF OF WHICH THE GON DID NOT ACKNOWLEDGE HE WAS A PRISONER, SUGGESTS THAT BORGE WAS NOT ASKED ANY UESTIONS HE HAD NOT HEARD BEFORE, OR THAT

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HIS RESPONSES CONTAINED NO SURPRISES. IN ANY CASE, THERE IS
A GREAT QUANTITY OF INFORMATION WORTHY OF CAREFUL DIGESTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, LIBERATION FRONTS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANAGU03919
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760318-0943
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760839/aaaabhig.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TESTIMONY OF CAPTURED FSLN LEADER, TOMAS BORGE MARTINEZ SUMMARY: TESTIMONY OF FSLN LEADER TOMAS BORGE, CAPTURED BY GN ON FEBRUARY 4, HAS BEEN DRAMAT ICALLY EXTENSIVE.
TAGS: PINS, CU, NU, FSLN, (BORGE MARTINEZ, TOMAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006